

Venice Neighborhood Council
Approved Minutes
Board of Officers Meeting
Westminster Elementary School Auditorium
1010 Abbot Kinney Boulevard
Venice, California 90291
Monday, October 30, 2006

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

DeDe Audet called the meeting to order. Recording Secretary Phil Raider called the roll: Board members present: DeDe Audet, C.J. Cole, Sylviane Dungan, Eileen Pollack Erickson, Peter Force, Yolanda Gonzalez, Michael King, Ira Koslow, Linda Lucks, Challis Macpherson, Joseph D. Murphy, Richard Myers, Mike Newhouse, Nadine Parkos, Diana Pollard, Phil Raider, and Kelley S. Willis (17 Board members present; 16 voting).
Absent: Colette Bailey, Spike Marlin,

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

DeDe Audet requested that Agenda items 4a and 4b be deleted; Ms. Audet also requested that discussion of item 4c be moved to Agenda item 3g. Phil Raider asked that Agenda item 5, Public Comment, be taken earlier in the meeting (after Agenda item 2).

The Board approved, by a show of hands, deleting Agenda items 4a and 4 b and moving item 4c.

The Board approved (14 in favor; 2 opposed) taking public comment after Agenda item 2.

Phil Raider moved to approve the agenda as amended.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Rob Kadoda, Mar Vista Community Council, congratulated the newly installed Board members and expressed hope for an opportunity to work with the new Board. Mr. Kadoda presented a mug to DeDe Audet.

John Brady, West Area Director, Mayor Villaraigosa's office, also congratulated the new Board members. Mr. Brady noted plans for the upcoming Mayor's Day of Service and encouraged VNC Board members and stakeholders to participate. DeDe Audet reminded attendees that the Day of Service is planned for November 19, 2006 and noted that information regarding the Day of Service was provided to Board members.

Jacomo Maltsby also offered congratulations to the new Board members.

Melya Kaplan, representing Voice for the Animals, reported on animals abandoned by former residents of Lincoln Place and asked for donations, fostering for cats, and for assistance in networking regarding helping the abandoned animals.

Phil Raider reported a Public Workshop on the issue of mansionization and neighborhood Character to be held by the Los Angeles City Department of Planning at the Felicia Mahood Senior Center on November 15, 2006.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Elect 4 Community Officers to Administrative Committee as per VNC By Laws

Ira Koslow moved that the VNC President chair the nominations and elections for the 4 Community Officers to serve on the Administrative Committee; seconded by ...

Collette Bailey arrived.

VOTE (by Community Officers): Unanimous in favor

- i. Nominations

At Linda Lucks' request, DeDe Audet and Richard Myers noted that the Administrative Committee's primary service is to set the Agenda for the Board meeting. Ms. Audet noted that the VNC By-Laws now provide for the VNC President to set the Board of Officers Meeting. C.J. Cole noted that the former Executive Committee is now the Administrative Committee.

Nadine Parkos self-nominated to serve on the Administrative Committee.

Sylviane Dungan asked for clarification of the difference between the Executive Committee and the Administrative Committee.

Linda Lucks nominated Joe Murphy and Mike Newhouse. Ira Koslow self-nominated.

The nominations were closed; there were four nominations.

- ii. Vote by Community Officers

VOTE: Unanimous in favor

b. Rules and Elections Committee

Richard Myers reported that there was only a 30 day time frame for application, nomination and election of stakeholders to the Land Use and Planning and Neighborhood Committees. Mr. Myers noted that there were 8 stakeholder seats on the Land Use and Planning Committee and 9 stakeholder seats on the Neighborhood Committee. Mr. Myers asked for suggestions for the questionnaire to be provided to prospective candidates. DeDe Audet reported that voting would have to take place by paper ballot for all Committee seats, on the advice of the City Attorney's office. Linda Lucks asked that the Recording Secretary keep a running tab on stakeholders that expressed interest in serving on either Committee. Phil Raider stated that he would post a list on the website on November 17, 2006 and that he could keep a running tab. Eileen Ericson asked that responses on the questionnaire be limited to 200 words or less. Richard Myers stated that a limit of 200 words or less be set for any open-ended questions. Yolanda Gonzalez asked that a fax number or mail address be provided for questionnaire responders. The mail address (P.O. Box 550, Venice, California 90294) and interim fax number (310 399 4449) were provided; Phil Raider reported that he was working to get a free e-fax number for the Venice Neighborhood Council. Joe Murphy stated that a complete address, including the name of the Venice Neighborhood Council) must be provided for the P.O. Box. There was discussion about how the review process will be accomplished. It was decided that the Board e-mail addresses will be included in the application instructions, to allow responders to e-mail their responses directly to Board members, as well as a URL for the map that shows the Venice sub-zones. The Committee applications can be submitted by e-mail to the Venice Neighborhood Council Recording Secretary (secretary@grvnc.com). Phil Raider quoted the VNC By-Laws regarding appointment of Board members to the Land Use and Planning Committee, and noted that Board members can self nominate. Richard Myers summarized the suggested changes. Mike Newhouse suggested adding two questions: "What is your opinion of the Venice Specific Plan?" and "How do you view your role in private interactions with developers who have projects pending before LUPC?" Challis Macpherson noted that the issues are addressed in LUPC Policies and Procedures. Mr. Newhouse noted that his intent was to learn about prospective applicants' opinions prior to their becoming Committee members. There was discussion about Board member nominations. Linda Lucks suggested rewording the second question to read "Are you aware of the conflict of interest rules regarding your ex parte communications with the developers?" Mike Newhouse agreed to the amendment. Richard Myers noted that a rhetorical question would obtain only a negative answer. Ms. Audet summarized the voting procedures agreed upon with the City Attorney's

office. Richard Myers listed the agreed-upon changes: paper ballots for all positions, change the word 'grand' to 'grant,' 200 words for all open questions, submissions will be made available to Board members the weekend before the vote, submissions can be made by fax, names will be given to Board members as they come in, the application will include instructions to allow the option to submit the application to the Board members at grvnc.org and to the Recording Secretary, and Board members may self-nominate for the LUPC Board positions.

Richard Myers moved to accept the listed changes as presented; seconded by C.J. Cole.

Sylviane Dungan asked if Board members that self-nominate must submit a 200 word statement. DeDe Audet noted that this subject is not covered in the By-Laws. Kelley Willis noted that the terminology stated 200 words or less.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.

Richard Myers asked for negative comment regarding the inclusion of the question "What is your opinion of the Venice Specific Plan." There was no comment made.

Joe Murphy moved to insert the question at issue; seconded by Eileen Erickson.

VOTE: 15 in favor; none opposed; 2 abstentions. The motion passed.

Mike Newhouse moved to insert the question "How do you view your role in private interactions with developers who have projects proposed before the Land Use and Planning Committee?"; seconded by Challis Macpherson.

VOTE: 16 in favor; none opposed; 1 abstention. The motion passed.

Kelley Willis suggested that the Neighborhood Committee mission statement be included in the questionnaire. Richard Myers stated that the question regarding this issue does include a verbatim quote of the subject mission statement.

DeDe Audet asked for a show of hands regarding the question of postponing the designation of a selection committee until an Outreach Officer is nominated and appointed. There was consensus that this issue will be addressed after the Outreach Officer is in place.

- c. Confirm Meeting Date and Times for New Board Term

DeDe Audet asked for comment regarding possible meeting date or time changes. Challis Macpherson stated that the Land Use and Planning Committee will continue to meet on the first Wednesday of the month, unless the new Committee elects to change.

Phil Raider moved to retain the third Tuesday of the month for the Board meeting and to maintain Westminster Elementary School as the place for the meeting and to continue meeting at 7 pm; seconded by Linda Lucks.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.

d. Removal of Rebecca Tafoya from the VNC Board

DeDe Audet noted that a three-quarter majority is required to accomplish this Board member removal. Phil Raider noted that, including the current meeting, Ms. Tafoya has missed four consecutive meetings twice in a row.

Challis Macpherson moved to remove Rebecca Tafoya from the Board; seconded by Yolanda Gonzalez.

Richard Myers discussed efforts by Board members to encourage Rebecca Tafoya to attend meetings. The Recording Secretary requested a roll call vote. Kelley Willis asked what function Ms. Tafoya held; she was an At Large Board member.

VOTE: Collette Bailey—yes, C.J. Cole—yes, Sylviane Dungan--yes, Eileen Pollack Erickson—yes, Peter Force—yes, Yolanda Gonzalez--yes, Michael King—no, Ira Koslow—yes, Linda Lucks—yes, Challis Macpherson—yes, Joseph D. Murphy—yes, Richard Myers—yes, Mike Newhouse—yes, Nadine Parkos—yes, Diana Pollard—yes, Phil Raider—yes, and Kelley S. Willis—yes. 16 in favor; 1 opposed; no abstentions. The motion passed.

e. Fill vacant Board positions by appointment

Linda Lucks nominated Ivan Spiegel to fill the vacant Board position of Outreach Officer. Mr. Spiegel accepted. The nominations were closed.

Phil Raider asked if there were any members of the public that would like to self-nominate for this position and that the public should be notified. DeDe Audet and Richard Myers noted that outreach efforts had been made and that the nominations were, in fact, already closed. There was discussion about the duration of the time since the Outreach position was vacated.

Phil Raider moved to close the nominations; seconded by Kelley Willis.

VOTE: 16 in favor; none opposed; 1 abstention.

Phil Raider moved that the Board appoint Ivan Spiegel to the position of ex-officio Outreach Officer until such time as a Town Hall meeting, where a majority of voting members will confirm or replace; seconded by Richard Myers.

VOTE: 16 in favor; none opposed; 1 abstention.

Richard Myers suggested that the Board consider the runner-up for an At-Large position from the recent VNC election. Phil Raider noted that the next highest vote getter was Stuart Oscars.

Phil Raider nominated Stuart Oscars to fill the At-Large vacancy; seconded by Challis Macpherson.

Linda Lucks noted that the issue of diversity on the Board should be paid close attention to, especially with regard to outreach to people of color.

Linda Lucks nominated Pam Anderson and Maury Ruano to fill the At-Large vacancy.

Phil Raider moved that nominations remain open for this particular Board seat, pending further outreach to the community, at a subsequent meeting; seconded by Linda Lucks.

There was discussion about how the appointments are to be ratified; Ivan Spiegel provided clarification that a subsequent election meeting must take place to allow stakeholders to confirm or replace appointed officers.

VOTE: 9 in favor; 5 opposed; 3 abstentions. The motion passed.

Linda Lucks moved to hold an election at the November 21, 2006 meeting; seconded by Richard Myers.

Ivan Spiegel asked for clarification of the election and ratification process. Linda Lucks asked that the candidates be allowed a forum to present their qualifications. This will be done at the November 21, 2006 meeting.

VOTE: 10 in favor; 4 opposed; 3 abstentions. The motion carried.

Georgann Abraham stated that no further outreach is needed, that stakeholders' opinions were expressed at the recent elections and that Stuart Oscars should be confirmed in the vacant At-Large position. Rand Denny echoed Georgann Abraham's contention, and asked that Stuart Oscars be confirmed. Greg Parkos stated that stakeholders' interest are not being upheld and that Stuart Oscars should be confirmed.

- f. Chair asks for volunteers to fill posts of Facilities Manager, Posting Manager, and Parliamentarian

DeDe Audet emphasized the importance of the Facilities Manager vacancy. Richard Myers asked if a back-up plan can be set into place until such time as a volunteer steps forward to fill the Facilities Manager vacancy. Kelley Willis asked if the position could be made a paid one. Deanna Stevenson suggested using AppleOne's procedures to create and fill the Facilities Manager vacancy. There was discussion about how to take care of scheduling and set-up of equipment. C.J. Cole noted that one person should not necessarily have to take care of both functions. Further discussion ensued about how these functions can be fulfilled, in the absence of a Facilities Manager. Joe Murphy stepped up to perform the scheduling function until such time as a Facilities Manager can be appointed. Richard Myers stated that he will perform the equipment set-up function for the month of December. Yolanda Gonzalez volunteered storage space at her studio for equipment. Eileen Erickson will perform equipment set-up for January 2006. Ivan Spiegel suggested appointing a Community Officer to perform the scheduling function. Joe Murphy stated that he will perform the scheduling function for the next year. DeDe Audet appointed Joe Murphy to fill the Facilities Manager function. Phil Raider will bring the equipment to the November 21, 2006 and will explain equipment set-up to any interested parties.

DeDe Audet called for a volunteer to perform the Posting Manager, as required by the Brown Act. Phil Raider stated that the Outreach Officer should perform this function. Ivan Spiegel stated that he will formulate a posting plan and will post general notices and Board notices but not Committee notices. C. J. Cole remarked that the By-Laws state that the posting function is a responsibility of the Communications Officer. There was discussion about Brown Act compliance. Collette Bailey volunteered to take responsibility for posting at two of the posting places. C. J. Cole remarked that the Communications officer should coordinate any posting efforts, and that should be done outside of Board meeting time.

DeDe Audet called for a volunteer to perform the Parliamentary function. Yolanda Gonzalez stated that DONE had provided assistance in this regard in the past.

g. Committees' 2005 Final Reports

Collette Bailey stated that her final Committee report had been provided at the most recent meeting. There were no other reports.

David Moring noted his service as a Disaster Planning Committee Chair and stated his unease at the way his Committee had been treated. Mr. Moring made a suggestion regarding how Committee reports should be held and what the Board should do with regard to the individual committee proceedings. DeDe Audet noted that previous Committee appointments had been made out of compliance with Roberts' Rules of Order and that certain ad hoc and standing Committees would be retired because of this. Ms. Audet listed those committees that would be retired and noted that any new ad hoc committees would be formed for a specific purpose. Phil Raider discussed the need for submission of regular reports from ad hoc Committees. Linda Lucks asked that the Ocean Front Walk Committee be reinstated and noted that her Committee had a final report prepared to be presented at the present meeting, and that Committee members were present to give oral reports. Due to a time constraint, Ira Koslow suggested that the committees submit written reports. Ivan Spiegel clarified the difference between ad hoc and standing committees and outlined the procedure by which a standing committee can be formed. Mr. Spiegel asked Ms. Audet if committee members waiting to make statements would be allowed to speak. Ms. Audet asked if there was any pressing issue from a Committee that should be addressed.

C. J. Cole moved that each ad hoc committee present an acceptable mission statement for consideration at the next meeting. There was no second.

Ivan Spiegel moved that the ad hoc Committees be allowed to continue with their current leadership until the next Board meeting and that the issue be taken up at that point; seconded by ...

DeDe Audet noted that ex officio Board members may not be able to make motions.

Joe Murphy moved that the ad hoc Committees be allowed to operate until the next Board meeting when they will be heard and either continued or discontinued; seconded by Eileen Erickson.

Mike Newhouse stated that the Committees present should be heard. Joe Murphy stated that his motion does not preclude statements being made by Committees members present.

VOTE: ...; 1 abstention

David Moring presented a report from the Disaster Preparedness Committee, listed goals for the Committee and presented a rationale for continuing the Committee. Stuart Oscars summarized a report for the Overnight Parking Committee, provided a hand-out that listed the Committee's activities and asked that the Committee be continued for another year.

Sarah Cozolino, representing the Animal Welfare Committee, noted the Committee's activities, and asked for the continuance of the Committee for another year.

A stakeholder suggested that the Committees should not be terminated.

DeDe Audet noted that order should be kept with regard to setting agenda items for Committees.

Sylviane Dungan discussed the creation of the Arts, Beautification and Culture Committee, listed the Committee's functions, noted the Committee's meetings, referred to disrespect aimed at the Arts, Beautification and Culture Committee by the Venice Neighborhood Council, noted plans for on-going activities and stated her reasons for the Committee to be a standing one.

Rand Denny requested that the Graffiti Committee be continued while noting its short tenure and creation within the past 30 days.

Phil Raider stated that it had been brought to his attention that, had public comment been taken prior to the vote being made, the outcome of the vote on item 3 g would have been different.

Phil Raider moved to reconsider his motion regarding the vacant Board seat; seconded by Challis Macpherson.

VOTE: 7 in favor; 7 opposed; 1 abstention

The president cast a tie breaker vote in favor of reconsideration. Phil Raider restated the motion previously considered, to hold the nomination open until the next meeting.

VOTE: 8 in favor; 6 opposed; 2 abstentions. The motion carried.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Diana Pollard thanked Committee chairs for their efforts. Collette Bailey moved to continue those Committees that presented final reports. It was noted that this was not an agenda item.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by common consent.